

Faith at Home Corner - *For the week of November 28th, 2021*

by Rev. Steve Andrews Jr.

Weekly Tip for Worshipping with Your Children: *Worshipping with children is not easy, but it is necessary and worthwhile! Even from the time of birth, children learn the most by observing what their parents do. We are here to help. This week's tip is for: **Parents with Young Children!***

COLOR CHANGE: Notice that the different colors of the altar and the stoles (the sash that the pastors wear over their albs/robes) changed! The colors help us mark the time of the church year. We have switched to **blue** in observance of a **new church year. Advent**, a preparatory time of waiting and watching, communicates the message of hope. What are we waiting for? For Jesus to come! As a baby, and in His second coming to take us home with Him. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history assuming our flesh, will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky He ascended long ago.

Outreach Made Simply Practical! *Live your normal, everyday lives with Gospel intentionality!*

The Gift of Hope and Encouragement: As we interact with people in our daily lives we run into people that are hurting, even at Christmas time. In fact, for some, Christmas time magnifies the hurt they have inside. Hurting people need a friend! They have a friend in you and need to be told or reminded that they have an eternal friend in Jesus! Be present in their lives! One way to be present is to say this next time you see them, "I am sorry that Christmas is a hard time of year for you – I want you to know I am here for you. Also, I would like to bring you with me to my church's service where we can hear together about the hope and encouragement we have in Jesus. Let this be my gift to you."

Weekly Worship Helps for the Home: *How do we go about doing devotions together as a family? How do we teach our children about their Lord and Savior? Here are some simple ways to do just that, to make Christ the center of your family and to be in His Word daily. This guide is designed to help your family read through the Scriptures together in three years and to cover the Small Catechism in just one year!*

You can certainly do this however you would like. In my home, we read a chapter of the Bible together after dinner each night, followed by reciting the three chief parts of the Catechism (Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, and the Lord's Prayer) and then we sing a hymn. There are any number of ways to talk about God in your home!

-Pray together! This week's **Prayer List:** <http://www.gracefaithlove.org/newsletter>

-Daily Scripture Readings: Let's read Leviticus 8-14! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions you have!

-Memory verse: Psalm 66:5 (Challenge! Psalm 66) – "Come and see what God has done: He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man."

-Hymn: *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* LSB 344, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 66

-Small Catechism (2017): Read together the section on The 3rd and 4th Commandments, on pg. 13-14. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Ten Commandments, pg. 52-57.

-Devotions resources: grab a copy of *Portals of Prayer* at church or subscribe to daily email devotions from www.lhm.org, www.lutheranchurchcharities.org, or <https://media.higherthings.org/reflections/>.

Feel free to share with family and friends, neighbors and coworkers, anyone you'd like!

God Time at Home

Select questions and adapt for your family.

FOR STARTERS: Give every family member a blank sheet of paper. Take turns having each member draw a picture of something that was amazingly fun for them this past week, while others guess what it was. You might want to make it a contest to see who can guess first! Then ask: "What person in the Bible had something amazing happen to him, but then could only draw pictures to describe it?"

READ THE BIBLE: Luke 1:5-25, 57-80. An angel tells old Zechariah that he and Elizabeth will have a baby who will be John the Baptist.

KEY VERSE: Luke 1:69 "[God] has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David."

TALK ABOUT IT: What job did Zechariah have and what did he do at his job? (*Luke 1:5, 9. He was a priest. As part of a rotation with other priests, some days it would be his turn to go into the God's Temple and serve Him there by caring for the golden lampstand, burning incense, etc.*) What was Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth's, greatest disappointment? (*Luke 1:7. They never had children and now they were old.*) When Zechariah was performing his duty, what amazing thing did he see to the right of the altar of incense? (*Luke 1:11. He saw an angel of the Lord.*) What did the angel say to Zechariah? (*Luke 1:13-17. The angel told Zechariah not to be afraid. God had heard Zechariah and Elizabeth's prayers and was giving them a son to be named John.*) How did Zechariah show doubt? (*Luke 1:18. He asked for proof.*) What proof did he get? (*Luke 1:20. Zechariah would not be able to speak until his son was born. This was a big deal for a priest, and everyone noticed as soon as he came out of the temple. They knew God did this.*) Did everything happen as the angel said it would?

John was later known as John the Baptist. What was his main job? (*To prepare the way for Jesus or to point to Jesus.*) God can do amazing things to point the way to Jesus. He did an amazing thing by letting John the Baptist be born to an old couple like Zechariah and Elizabeth.

What are amazing things that have happened to you that point the way to Jesus? The season of Advent points us to the coming of Jesus. What are ways we can point to Jesus during this Advent season? What are things we can do to celebrate Advent that point to Jesus? (*Advent traditions like attending worship during the week, having a wreath on your table that reminds you and your family to do family devotions, telling others why you're excited for Christ to come, both at Christmas and on the Last Day, etc.*)

PRAYER: Thank God for the amazing things He does in our lives. Thank Him for the amazing gift of Jesus. Ask God to show you ways your family can point the way to Jesus this season.

Family Time Option

One day this week, try...

Christmas season is a time when some people write Christmas newsletters to describe what happened in their family over the past year. If you send a Christmas letter, ask that family members think of amazing things God has done for you this past year to include in the letter.